Promotion of Ayurveda

1453. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) with growing interest in alternative medicines, specially Ayurveda, what steps are being taken to promote it; and

(b) what is the mechanism to ensure the quality of Ayurvedic drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government has implemented schemes to support strengthening of existing Ayurveda infrastructure in the country for improving the standards of education, research, drugs and health delivery. Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been amended to provide financial assistance to the States for improvement in the training, drug testing and health care facilities. Under the policy initiative of mainstreaming and integration of AYUSH, allopathic hospitals including PHCs, CHCs and District hospitals are supported to set up Ayurveda facilities. Print and Audio-visual publicity materials are prepared and distributed and health melas/exhibitions are organized and supported. Schemes for promotion of use of information technology and AYUSH interventions in public health have been taken up in the Eleventh Plan. Promotion of Ayurveda at international level has also been taken up by deputing Ayurveda experts to participate in international conferences/seminars etc., and to undertake teaching programmes, at foreign institutions and by supporting entrepreneurs' participation in international fairs and exhibitions on traditional medicine.

(b) Ayurveda drugs can only be manufactured on commercial scale after the manufacturing unit and the products to be manufactured- for sale are licensed under Drugs and Cosmetics Act. It is mandatory for manufacturers to follow pharmacopoeial standards of raw material and to display the true list and quantity of ingredients on the label or in the leaflets inserted in the package. Good Manufacturing Practices are mandatory for the manufacturers and the licenses of the defaulters are either not renewed or cancelled. State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to enforce provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in respect of ensuring quality of drugs.

Declining standards of dental education

t1454. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Dental Health has expressed deep concern over decline in the academic standards of dental colleges in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that mushrooming of dental colleges in the country by avoiding quality has been pointed out as a fatal situation for dental education; and

(c) if so, the views of Government in this regard together with the complete details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) (a) There is an acute shortage of teaching faculty. In order to overcome this problem and also in the interest of maintaining the highest standard of dental education in the country, the Central Government has enhanced upper age limit for engagement of teaching faculty from 65 to 70 for teaching posts like Professors, Readers etc.,

(b) and (c) Any applicant, who is desirous of opening a new dental college in the country, is required to submit an application for that purpose as per the provisions of the Dentists Act, 1948 and Regulations made thereunder alongwith Essentiality Certificate issued by the concerned State Government. While giving such Essentiality Certificate, the State Government is required to indicate the availability of doctors in the State and the need for improving the availability of dental manpower in the State.

The Dental Council of India conducts inspection for verification of the availability of the requisite facilities as per the Council's norms before making the recommendation to the Central Government for grant of permission for the establishment of a new dental college. The Council also conducts periodic inspection of the already established dental colleges to ensure that the minimum facilities in terms of the Council's norms are available in such colleges. Necessary provisions are thus available in the Regulations of the Council to regulate the establishment of the dental colleges in the country and to prevent lowering of the standards of dental education.

Nursing colleges in the country

1455. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of nursing colleges which have got permission by the Nursing Council of India, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint regarding some nursing colleges which have given wrong advertisements without the permission from the Nursing Council of India; and

(c) if so, what actions are taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There are 833 B.Sc. (Nursing), 82 P.B.B.Sc. (Nursing) and 97 M.Sc. (Nursing) colleges which are functioning with the approval of Indian Nursing Council State-wise, position is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(b) and (c) It has come to the notice of Indian Nursing Council through a court case pending in Karnataka High Court that some colleges in south India have issued advertisements claiming that they are recognized by Indian Nursing Council though no such approval or recognition has been conferred upon them by Indian Nursing Council. Since Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka is seized of this issue no action is contemplated at present.